**Ms. Susan Davis**

**St. Mark’s Episcopal School**

**6th Grade Language Arts 2012-2013**

**Ultimate English Mission:** To become an accomplished Guide in the World of Literature; to achieve mastery in reading, writing, and critical thinking; to connect to, share with, and learn from other Guides at school and around the world.

Guides assume responsibility for their own learning in class and outside of it. Weekly assignments include independent reading (90 minutes per week for the first semester) and 120 minutes per week for the second semester); online discussion; “flipped” lessons; and leveling-up skills review.

All Guides are responsible for contributing to the learning environment, including participating in one Learning Team each quarter on a rotating basis. Guides will be asked embody leadership skills, productive collaborative interaction, and sharing of their learning for the greater good. All Guides are expected to be respectful of the learning process, mindful of how their actions affect the learning of others, and ready to take action. They are also expected to be active, responsible participants in all learning missions.

**Learning Teams**

1. Reader Librarians
2. Cultural Anthropologists
3. Training Specialists
4. Resource Managers

**Mission 1: Courage**

**Quest**: Investigate new worlds of literature on the theme of “courage”; share your learning in [Collaborize](http://www.collaborizeclassroom.com//); begin independent writing projects (blogging in [Edublogs](http://edublogs.org/); quad-blogging, or Writer’s Club); begin sharing discoveries in [Diigo](http://www.diigo.com/education).

**Mission Manual:** Lois Lowry, *Number the Stars*; selected poems and stories

**Skill Building (Leveling Up):**

*Wordskills* (Gold Level), Units 1-4, Vocab Lab 1

*English Workshop* (First Course): Chapter 1: The Writing Process; Chapter 4: Expressing Yourself; Chapter 8: Sentence Workshops; Chapter 10: The Sentence

**Artifacts of Learning:**

Summer Reading Project (Tweetboard)

Personal Learning Essay (includes research)

Independent Writing (Blogging, Creative Writing, Reflection)

Weekly Writing Response

Quizzes and Tests

**Special Events:** Lois Lowry at Cool Brains! Reading Series on October 14th

**Mission 2: Empathy**

**Quest:** Investigate new Worlds of Literature on the theme of “empathy”; continue online writing projects; begin curating individual digital portfolios in [Wikispaces](http://www.wikispaces.com/content/teacher)

**Mission Manual:** Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*, selected stories and poems

**Special Events:** Attend a performance of *A Christmas Carol* at the Alley Theatre

**Mission 3:** TBA

**Quest:** Reader Librarians select “Mission Manual” and theme for the third quarter.

**Mission 4: Loyalty**

**Quest:** Investigate new worlds of literature on the theme of “loyalty”; produce a performance of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream.*

**Toolbox:**

1” Binder (for Artifacts of Learning, Team Notes, Mission Assignments, etc.)

Recycled Materials (for projects)

Composition Book (for in-class writing assignments, brainstorming, sketching, etc.)

Creativity Pack (anything you personally like to use to personalize, design, and decorate your learning environment; digital tools to share what you learn)

[Collaborize](http://www.collaborizeclassroom.com//) account (to be set up by teacher)

[Diigo Education](http://www.diigo.com/education) account (to be set up by teacher)

[Edublogs](http://edublogs.org/) account (to be set up by teacher)

[Wikispaces Education](http://www.wikispaces.com/content/teacher/) account (to be set up by teacher)

**Class Participation:**

Plus points will be given on a daily basis for completion of assignments, active discussion in class, and class work. Minus points will be given for missing assignments or disruptions to the learning process. Students must total at least 8-10 plus points each week to earn a “Superior” rating for the week.